

Great Bridge Intermediate **February/March 2017 CALENDAR**

February 1	Teacher Workday (no school for students)
February 6	Jamestown In-House Field Trip (4 th Grade)
February 20	President's Day Holiday (school closed)
February 24	Admirals Spirit Night
March 2	NAEP Testing for Select Students
March 6 & 7	Virginia Aquarium Outreach Program (Grade 3)
March 9	Early Release Day (Elementary Only)
March 15	3 rd Grade PTA Dance
March 16	4 th /5 th Grade PTA Dance
March 17	PTA Class Themed Baskets are Due
March 20	March Madness Student/Faculty Basketball Game
March 21	Young Writers Open House at Oscar Smith HS 5:30-7:00
March 23	5 th Grade Field Trip to the Planetarium
March 30	5 th Grade Field Trip to Pamplin Park

The Young Writer's Open House will be held at Oscar Smith High School on March 21st from 5:30-7:00PM. Many of our students will be recognized for their writing accomplishments.

PTA: We are actively seeking volunteers willing to serve on the PTA board or chair a committee for the 2017-2018 school year. If interested, please contact the current PTA president, Tracy Tucker, at gbiptatracy@gmail.com.

March Madness Student/Faculty Basketball Game: Join us for this annual fun event. Select chosen fifth graders will play against our elite faculty team Monday, March 20th at Great Bridge High School at 7:00p.m. Admission is free, concessions will be sold to benefit the GBH after prom party, and the GBI PTA will be raffling off themed baskets.

Clinic Corner:

Flu

While influenza (the 'flu) has been on the rise recently, we have not had any known cases involving students here at GBI up to this point. We are grateful that our students haven't had to struggle through that illness. Please remember the importance of good nutrition, including the recommended 5 servings of fruit and vegetables daily. Equally important is maintaining an adequate sleep schedule, especially during the school week. One of the best defenses against picking up illnesses is using good hand washing. Please encourage and ensure frequent hand washing, especially before touching food, prior to eating, after coughing/sneezing/blowing your nose, after being out in a public place, and after using the bathroom.

Cough Drop Protocol

Realizing that there are times that coughing may interfere with the learning atmosphere in the classroom setting, that not all cough medication will be effective throughout the entire school day, and that there are times when throat irritation requires something other than cough medication for relief of coughing, the following protocol has been developed to aid parents, teachers, and students:

- 1) Only regular, non-medicated cough drops may be brought in to school by a student, (no lidocaine or benzocaine type which "soothes" a sore throat, but eucalyptus or Vitamin C drops are allowed).
- 2) If/when a student brings cough drops to school; please send a note in for the teacher.

- 3) The teacher will have the student bring the cough drops to the clinic to show the nurse, so they can be checked before using.
- 4) The nurse will verify that the cough drops are appropriate for school use. If there is an unapproved style of cough drops brought in, they will be kept in the clinic until the parent can pick them up.
- 5) Students may never share cough drops with other students!
- 6) Cough drops are not to be used during outdoor recess or during PE, when they may become a choking hazard.
- 7) Cough drops should be used for a short duration - not months at a time.

If you find nits or lice in your child's hair please do the following:

- Notify the school immediately so that classroom inspection of students can be done.
- Contact your doctor or clinic for treatment recommendations or
- Purchase at the local drug store a louse treatment preparation.
- Treat each member of the family, following the directions on the label.

Reading is one of the most important skills that students acquire. Please continue to encourage your child to read. It is a complex process that requires practice every day. Here are a few sites to encourage a love of reading:

- www.learninggamesforkids.com
- www.readinga-z.com
- www.pbskids.org
- www.readwritethink.org
- www.iknowthat.com
- www.bookadventure.com
- www.starfall.com
- www.poetry4kids.com
- <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-third-graders>
- <http://www.startwithabook.org/>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>
- <http://wowzabrain.com/accounts/>

Math “The experts agree that the ability to recall basic math facts fluently is very necessary for students to attain higher-order math skills.” Grover Whitehurst (Director of IES) Federal Math Summit, 2003. Here are a few math-related websites that are helpful to parents and fun for students:

- PRINTABLE FLASH CARDS –
<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/free-online-math-flash-cards.html>
http://janbrett.com/games/subtraction_flash_cards_main.htm
- Math Fact Café - <http://www.mathfactcafe.com/>
- Math Magician - <http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/mathmagician/cathymath.html>
- Math Baseball - <http://www.funbrain.com/math/index.html>

